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J OTIS HUMPHREY.**1850—1918.**

Judge J Otis Humphrey was a native of Morgan County having been born there Dec. 30, 1850. He was the son of William and Sarah Stocker Humphrey. He was descended from an old English family. Major Humphrey, his great grandfather, won his title as the commander of a battalion of the Fourth Rhode Island Infantry of the American Army during the war of Independence.

Judge Humphrey was reared on a farm in Auburn township, Sangamon County, and his early education was secured in the district school. Later he attended the High School at Virden, Ill., for two years, after which he spent five years in Shurtleff College, Upper Alton. After graduating at Shurtleff College he taught two years in that College.

He later entered the law office of Robinson, Knapp & Shutt in Springfield and in 1880 he was admitted to the Bar, working that year in the office of Hon. John A. Chestnut, supervisor of the census for the 8th District of Illinois. In 1881 and 1882 he was a clerk in the offices of the Illinois Railroad and Warehouse Commission. In 1883 he formed a partnership with the late Hon. Henry S. Greene, one of the most distinguished attorneys in the West. This partnership continued until 1899.

Judge Humphrey was for many years prominent in the politics of the republican party of Illinois. His political activities began in 1876 under the tutelage of the late Hon. Shelby M. Cullom who was that year elected Governor of Illinois. In 1884 Mr. Humphrey was an elector on the Republican ticket in the Cleveland-Blaine campaign. In 1896 he was delegate to the National Republican Convention at St. Louis. He was for four years chairman of the Sangamon County Republican Committee. On July 1, 1897, President McKinley appointed him United States Attorney for the

Southern District of Illinois and in 1901 he was appointed Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois to succeed Judge William J. Allen, deceased.

He was a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has occupied the position of grand master the highest position in the order in the State, and was for many years one of the two representatives from the State of Illinois to the sovereign grand lodge. He was for 15 years chairman of the board of trustees of the Odd Fellows Orphans Home in Lincoln and was instrumental in the building of the home and practically managed the affairs of the institution while he was a member of the board of trustees.

He was one of the members of the Odd Fellows Building association which erected the seven story building on 4th and Monroe, which, at the time it was built was the largest and finest office building in Springfield.

He was a member of St. Paul's Lodge No. 500, A. F. & A. M.

Judge Humphrey was one of the organizers of the Lincoln Centennial Association, an organization formed in 1909 to perpetuate the memory of Abraham Lincoln, and was president of the association from its organization. He presided at all of the annual banquets or meetings held from 1909 to 1918 on Lincoln's birthday.

He was an early member of the Illinois State Historical Society. At the annual meeting of the society for 1907 he presented a valuable paper on the life and services of John M. Peck, one of the pioneer Baptist ministers of the state, and the founder of Shurtleff College.

He was a member of the Sangamo Club, the Illini Country Club and the Illinois State Historical Society.

He was prominent in the organization of the Franklin Life Insurance Company in 1884 and since its organization has been a member of its board of directors and for the past twelve years vice president of the company.

He was a director of the Illinois National Bank and the Sangamon Loan & Trust Company. He was a trustee of Shurtleff College. He was a life long member of the Baptist

church and for thirty years was a trustee of the Central Baptist church at Springfield.

Judge Humphrey was married in 1879 to Miss Mary E. Scott, daughter of Rev. A. H. Scott, a Baptist clergyman. Five children, Scott Humphrey, Misses Mary, Maud and Grace Humphrey and Mrs. Ruth Grunendike.

Judge Humphrey had marked literary ability, and was the author of a number of magazine articles, and a contributor to the History of Sangamon County published in 1912.

Funeral services were held at 4 p. m., Sunday, June 16, 1918, in the Central Baptist church, Springfield, interment was made in the Auburn cemetery.